

# Surveillance of Health Care Workers with HIV/AIDS

Of the adults reported with AIDS in the United States through December 31, 1999, 22,218 had been employed in health care. These cases represented 5.1 percent of the 437,407 AIDS cases reported to CDC for whom occupational information was known (information on employment in the health care setting was missing for 287,249 reported AIDS cases).

The type of job is known for 20,909 (94 percent) of the 22,218 reported health care workers with AIDS. The specific occupations are listed in the box below.

The remainder are maintenance workers, administrative staff, etc. Overall, 74 percent of the health care workers with AIDS, including 3,619 nurses, 1,334 physicians, 374 dental workers, 302 paramedics, and 84 surgeons, are reported to have died.

<i>Nurses</i>	<b>4,856</b>
<i>Health Aides</i>	<b>4,859</b>
<i>Technicians</i>	<b>2,933</b>
<i>Physicians</i>	<b>1,691</b>
<i>Therapists</i>	<b>1,010</b>
<i>Dental Workers</i>	<b>467</b>
<i>Paramedics</i>	<b>424</b>
<i>Surgeons</i>	<b>114</b>

CDC is aware of 56 health care workers in the United States who have been documented as having seroconverted to HIV following occupational exposures. Twenty-five have developed AIDS. Occupations for those

<i>Nurses</i>	<b>23</b>
<i>Laboratory Workers*</i>	<b>19</b>
<i>Physicians</i>	<b>6</b>
<i>Surgical Technicians</i>	<b>2</b>
<i>Dialysis Technician</i>	<b>1</b>
<i>Respiratory Therapist</i>	<b>1</b>
<i>Health Aide</i>	<b>1</b>
<i>Embalmer/Morgue Technician</i>	<b>1</b>
<i>Houskeeper/Maintenance Workers</i>	<b>2</b>

*\*16 were clinical laboratory workers*

individuals who seroconverted are listed in the box at left. The vast majority (48) had percutaneous (puncture/cut injury) exposure. The remaining exposures included 5 mucocutaneous (mucous membrane and/or skin) exposures, 2 involving both percutaneous and mucocutaneous exposures, and 1 unknown route of exposure. Forty-nine exposures were to HIV-infected blood, 3 to concentrated virus in a laboratory, 1 to visibly bloody fluid, and 3 to an unspecified fluid.

CDC also is aware of 136 other cases of HIV infection or AIDS among health care workers who have not reported other risk factors for HIV infection and who report a history of occupational exposure to blood, body fluids, or HIV-infected laboratory material, but for whom seroconversion after exposure was not documented. The number of these workers who acquired their infection through occupational exposures is unknown.

For information about prevention of occupational transmission, see the CDC fact sheet titled "Preventing Occupational HIV Transmission to Health Care Workers," June 1999.

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***For more information...***

**CDC National AIDS Hotline:**

1-800-342-AIDS

Spanish: 1-800-344-SIDA

Deaf: 1-800-243-7889

**CDC National Prevention Information Network:**

P.O. Box 6003

Rockville, Maryland 20849-6003

1-800-458-5231

**Internet Resources:**

NCHSTP: <http://www.cdc.gov/nchstp/od/nchstp.html>

DHAP: <http://www.cdc.gov/hiv>

NPIN: <http://www.cdcnpin.org>